

Tidy Towns Competition 2025

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Claremorris - Clár Chlainne Mhuiris** Ref: **514**
County: **Mayo** Mark: **342**
Category: **D** Date(s): **12/06/2025**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	46	48
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	46
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	45	48
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	41
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	23	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	59	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	30	32
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	39	41
TOTAL MARK	550	324	342

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as d'iontráil a sheoladh chugainn. Maith sibh as an obair atá déanta i bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhúr thionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór.

Thank you for your completed Application Form which included photos of some of your projects, also for your excellent legend and map (see Concluding Remarks below) with projects marked, and for your 3-5 year plan. Your committee of seven is joined by twenty two volunteers who help when there are jobs to be done. Very often new residents to a town want to become involved in their new home, but don't want to join sport's clubs etc. Tidy Towns is an ideal prospect for them so we suggest you also reach out to all of these new residents. We opened your Instagram account and also Facebook page (1.9K followers) and see that you post regularly on both which we were delighted to see. It is vital to keep up the interest of the community on your social media platforms. We love the photos showing the projects and of the volunteers involved. State, semi-state, voluntary clubs, and businesses support you with advice or financially which is perfect, as many projects need collaborators to see them being advanced/completed. You've participated in the Tidy Towns competition for many years which has resulted in strengthening the community and assisting them to make the town a better place to 'work, live and raise a family'. Good to read that your Ukrainian and Brazilian new residents have become involved in Tidy Towns.

See Concluding Remarks for advice on filling out the application form and producing a map(s).

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

On your main streets there are single, two and three storey residences and businesses sitting comfortably side by side. Here we find a mix of architectural styles, primarily vernacular, but with interesting features, details and ornamentation which adds beauty to the streetscape. Add to these Saint Colman's RC Church, the Cofl church of Saint John (now Claremorris Library), the buildings associated with the railway, and the recently painted National School with its lovely murals on the boundary wall, to complement the architectural merit of the town. We see that you are engaged with the local businesses and encourage them to 'maintain and upkeep vibrant and clean shop fronts'. We also suggest that you ask them to maintain the streetscape outside their properties, by remove litter and weed growth, for a distance each side as this will lessen the workload for your volunteers. We commend the businesses who have made the effort which has resulted in the streetscape being clean and welcoming. You have some fine shopfronts – compliments to the simplicity and beautiful presentation of M. Killeen which we particularly loved and also to Begleys Stores. You bring unoccupancy and dereliction to the notice of Mayo Co Co who are actively advancing this. Derelict site notices have been issued and, in some areas, properties have been bought and renovated. Good to see the new infill development on Mount Street. We noted in one photo the fascia and

name of the commercial unit had been removed in the renovation. We encourage you to advise developers etc to retain these as they are part of the social history of your town which is important to keep. Once they're gone they're gone. What a lovely selfie-mural you've installed – compliments to the artist. Good to see the Outdoor Dining Space and we read that it is well used for community events – thanks for the photos. You have quite a number of historical post boxes around the town which we admire. Have you a Claremorris Heritage Trail? If not it's time to produce one.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

We admired the permanent and temporary planters installed by Mayo Co Co – a great mix of colourful pollinator friendly flowers and shrubs. Add some trailing plants to the tall planters next year for impact. We also recommend selecting carefully the location of temporary planters so that they create maximum impact /drama on the streetscape. St. John's Cofl graveyard restoration project has secured it as a biodiversity wildlife area which boasts bird and bat boxes, bee hotels and a hedgehog house. Here you have planted apple trees, bluebells and snowdrops. The 3km Mayfield Lake looped walk, which has flat paved and boardwalk surfaces which are suitable for less able users, is excellent. We admired the openness of this green space with wildflowers growing everywhere attracting a great variety of insects and birds. You also have the 5km loop walk on the Land of the Giants Park with the timber sculptures which your younger walkers must enjoy. We read (on a website) that the idea was 'conceived by Foróige in 1988 to transform an industrial wasteland'. What a great group of young people! Hopefully by now some are on you committee? Quite a number of the trees around the town and in communal open spaces had sucker growth which needs to be removed. St. Colman's Cemetery, with its name clearly displayed in the wrought iron arch, and recently painted walls and piers, was very presentable. We particularly admired that you had absolutely no signage except for the name – that's all one needs to see. There's a lack of trees along the main streets in the centre of the town. We suggest you do a survey on where build-outs could be incorporated and bring this to the attention of the area office of Maayo Co Co. Trees are known to have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. By planting and caring for trees, you help reduce pollution, improve your surroundings, improve the appearance of your community and increase the value of your property. In addition, they provide shade for humans, food for insects and food, roosting sites and nesting sites for birds.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar:

The aim of this category is to encourage people to recognise. Engage and celebrate the biodiversity and richness of the wildlife habitats in their surroundings. Your main project this year was the research and production of an information panel on insects to be found in habitats surrounding Clare Lake. We loved the geese at the lake shore! The research was undertaken by an expert and so the panel relates specifically to your area and is not a generic one which we often see. Well done, as this kind of information panel is perfect. We admired that it related to various habitats and gave a brief explanation of each area. Now that you have this knowledge perhaps it's time to share it with the townsfolk? We suggest you invite your expert to give a talk to the community on her findings. Great to read that 1600 whitethorn hedging was planted in addition to 10 silver birch trees. There are probably other private individuals (farmers) that are doing similar planting, so let us know. You also mention two riparian zones of five hectares but failed to tell us more. Where are these located? Why were they chosen? Who advised on those areas? We admired that a border had been left around the playing field in the National School which was full of wildflowers and long grasses – home now to lots of insects and small mammals. Do you know if the schools have nature walks? Perhaps this is something you might introduce.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

Congratulations on winning the Mayo Cathaoirleach's Awards 2024 for 'Environmental Initiatives: Circular Living – Waste and/or Litter' for you Ballot Bins and we read on the Mayo Co Co website that you also won it in 2023. Well done. We admire that a Book Swap Library has been, at your instigation, been installed at the train station. This is a great idea as commuters can borrow a book for their journey and then drop it back on their return/when finished with it. Good to read that the new information panel on insects was design by a local graphic artist and also made by a local recycled plastics company. We also read that the new benches are made from recycled plastic which will reduce maintenance for you as now they will just have to be washed instead of being varnished/painted. It was disappointing to see the raised beds in the National School overgrown – perhaps you should offer to help and introduce one class every year to sowing flower and vegetable seeds. The bottle cap mural certainly raises awareness of recycling and its location on the bridge is ideal as it catches the eye of both the pedestrian and motorist. We love the way different sized bottle caps have been used in addition to different colours. But now that the bottle cap is attached to the plastic bottles, which we recycle, we wonder if the 'Heart of the West' collector will be used to collect another batch of bottle tops? Having compost available in the Growing Locally Garden is a good idea and we hope that it is availed of. If not, we have no doubt that you use it in your own panting schemes? Good to read that trees have been planted by the TY students in partnership with the Lions Club. Where are these?

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

You resister for the An Taisce Annual Spring Clean -Up every year which is commendable and we encourage you to keep this up. This annual event registers with the whole community, when they see a large number of Tidy Towns volunteers working in their high-viz jackets, that they too need to be vigilant on litter disposal, weed growth and fly-tipping. Good to see that you had new residents helping you in addition to the local TY school students. A good idea to have the litter pickers and bags at Clare Lake – we hope you're finding this initiative is successful? Tell us more about this next year. Dog fouling is a problem throughout Ireland and all you can do is hope that the message finally gets through, that owners are responsible for their dogs. We love that you have stencilled dog images on your footpaths – this is by far the best way of getting people's attention and we've been told by others that it produces the

best results. The dog fouling signs are clutter in the streetscape and truthfully people don't pay attention to them. Your streetscape, unfortunately, has quite an amount of cobble lock which is prone to moss, algae and weed growth. We read that you have power washed these areas which is really one of the only ways to successfully remove all. But this is ongoing – so be prepared to do this a few times every year in order to keep the areas neat and tidy. We see your Tidy Tuesday reminders on your Facebook page. This is excellent in showing the towns people the location of the meeting points every week. We read (and saw) that some of your lampposts were painted by Mayo Co Co – but just the bottom section. We look forward to this job being completed, as street furniture such as these, either add or detract from the overall appearance and tidiness of a town. Some of the utility boxes were painted well done. All of these in EVERY town should be painted reflecting aspects of local history/environment/people etc to make a feature of them in the streetscape.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

The central residential areas of Claremorris were very pleasantly presented with many of the single, two and three storey properties recently painted. Some had window boxes or planters which added to their presentation and looked good. We particularly admired the presentation of a bungalow with the freshly painted pink walls with cerise detail. Compliments to the owner on its presentation. We noted that unoccupancy and dereliction is being reduced in Claremorris with some of these buildings now seeing a new purpose both as both residential and commercial properties. We hope this continues for you, as unoccupancy and dereliction are extremely unpleasant on a streetscape. It is important that the fascia and name of commercial properties be retained when a premises is converted to residential use as this is part of your social history. We commend the owners of Byrne's for doing this. Please encourage other to do likewise. You have quite a number of estates and we saw on your Facebook Page that you have a Residents Estate Competition. We love this idea – nothing like a little friendly rivalry! Due to the Estates Competition may we compliment the residents on the presentation of their estates. Boundary walls along entrance roads, grass margins, communal open spaces, trees, shrub beds, individual houses and gardens etc etc were well presented in almost every estate we visited. We hope that you have a night for the presentation of certificates where you invite elected representatives, members of Mayo Co Co (Director of Services, environmental officer, etc.) and the local press. This will give your organisation publicity and kudos. Congratulations to the 2024 winner Cluain Aoibhinn, Claremount who will, no doubt, happily display their winning plaque. Some of the communal green spaces would be much improved if a coppice or two of trees was planted in areas not required for ball play. Perhaps sorbus aucuparia (mountain ash) or betula pendula (silver birch) might be suitable. We suggest that the name Gratten Close is picked out in black paint. Black paint should be used on light coloured stone (sandstone, granite etc.) and white paint on dark stone (limestone etc.).

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The planting along the Ballindine Road and Kilcolman Road is very pleasant and makes the entrance to the town more attractive. We like that you've also included trees as these are very important in a streetscape. We admired your new signage – good that they are raised off the ground so that if you wish, you can add stone surround planting beds around the bases of the poles. The Fáilte Claremorris mural is impressive – we liked its simplicity which ensures it makes more of an impact on the visitor. We love that good quality footpaths extend into the suburbs and beyond making it very safe, and inviting, for pedestrians to access the centre of the town. The gravel area where the Tidy Towns sign is located was quite untidy and we recommend that you remove the gravel and sow grass seed. Grass is much easier to maintain than gravel and even if slightly unkempt it still looks better than weed growth on gravel. Quite an amount of road markings in the town centre and in the housing estates, need to be repainted, including the disabled parking locations – check with the area office when this is due to happen.

Concluding Remarks:

We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your village and compliment you on your very clear map ... but we have a few suggestions for 2026.

- As your area is quite large, we'd recommend two maps – one of the overall area which you gave us and then one to a larger scale of the centre of the town with the exact location of the projects marked. This year it took us a while to find some of the locations in the town centre due to the small scale of the map.
- Please select the best category for a project and then include it there and ONLY there. We read the EXACT same information on the Insect Information Board for Clare Lake/McMahon Park in three areas of the application form, on the St. John's Cofl Graveyard Restoration Project in two and the Butterfly Mural also in two. Please don't do this, as it's needless and makes your application form unnecessarily long.

We wish to state that this is not a criticism of your work but to explain to you that as adjudicators we rely on a clear application form and accompanying map to inform us of your projects and make our visit rewarding.

We also ask that you make reference to the Sustainable Development Goals. We encourage you to look at the presentation by Limerick Co Co as it is extremely helpful

The link is : [https://www.limerick.](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

[ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf](https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-03/sustainable-development-goals-helpful-hints.pdf)

Thank you for entering the SuperValu Tidy Towns 2025 competition. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and it was a pleasure to adjudicate Claremorris, a town we haven't visited for quite a while. It was great to see the improvements over the intervening years and we encourage you to keep up the good work which is reaping its just rewards.

